Winter 2002-2003 Season Wrapup

The snow network continues to run very smoothly thanks to the effort put forth by snow spotters across central New York and northeast Pennsylvania. The 2002-2003 winter was one of those extremely busy and challenging seasons, with above normal snowfall, capped off by a high frequency of mixed snow and ice events. In some areas, the continual snow pack was measured in feet for much of the winter.

The winter began early with a few rounds of Lake Effect Snow in October, but it wasn't until November when the bowling alley of major storms started rolling, seemingly non-stop, through the region. The first coastal storm moved up the Atlantic seaboard on the 16th of November providing an ice storm for the Western Catskills, Mohawk Valley, and eastern fringes of the Susquehanna region. One half to one inch of icing was deposited, especially over the higher elevations. Except for the three major snowstorms, the difference between valley and higher terrain snowfall was quite pronounced this year. The first widespread snowfall of the season to fall over a significant portion of our forecast area, occurred on the 5th of December where 6 to 10 inches fell over much of northeast Pennsylvania and into portions of the western Catskills. A little less than a week later, on the 11th and 12th, a mixed ice and snow storm swept through those very same areas. The first of our three major holiday storms was, of course, the Christmas Day heavy snow which brought a wide range of snowfall amounts to the region. Our snow spotters reported a band of 2 to 3 feet in the Western Catskills and eastern Susquehanna region, but amounts rapidly dropped off to 8-14 inches along the I-81 corridor and across northeast Pennsylvania. Lesser amounts, even down to as little as 6 inches, fell over the far western and northern fringes of the central Southern Tier and Finger Lakes. Right on the heels of that big storm were the double whammy New Year's week storms which invaded the region first with a significant icing on the 1st and 2nd of January, followed quickly by yet another general 1 to 2 feet of snow on the 3rd and 4th. Thousands of folks were without power and emergency shelters were activated in many counties and municipalities. Winter kept on roaring through February with the President's Day storm, which was yet another strong coastal low moving up the Atlantic seaboard. This storm produced a snow distribution much like the Christmas day storm, where heavy snow fell over eastern parts of our region with lighter snow to the west. This is a typical coastal low snowfall pattern. Late in the season, we were reminded just how far north we actually do live, as heavy snow fell over parts of the Catskills and Poconos in early March, followed by a significant early April (5th) ice storm which forced counties from the Finger Lakes region to the Mohawk Valley and southern Tug Hill Plateau to declare states of emergency. Tens of thousands of electrical customers were without power, in some cases up to a week, and millions of dollars worth of damage was caused by this icing. Throughout the long, cold winter, the lake effect machine was motoring right along, and was usually strongest behind the major storm systems as cold air poured in across the big lake. Several of our lake snow belt stations reported 200-250 inches for the season.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our spotters for a fantastic job this past winter. Your dedication is extremely valuable to us at the National Weather Service as we attempt to improve the accuracy and timeliness of our winter weather products. We especially appreciate the many special snow reports during these heavy snow events that our spotters called in. Keeping the forecasters (like myself) currently up to date on what's *really* happening is key to our success in serving and helping to protect the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Brewster National Weather Service Binghamton, NY Precipitation Spotter Network Coordinator

2002-2003 Snow Spotter Data for Central New York and Northeast Pennsylvania

WINTER 2002-2003		ELEV	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	SEASON	
OSWEGO		•	·	*	-	•	*	*	*	•	•
	SANDY CREEK	250	0	25	31	104	26	18	8	211	
ONEIDA											
	FORESTPORT	1000	5	29	35	53	28	19	17	184	
	POINT ROCK	1000	1	28	38	91	48	19	7	231	
	WESTERNVILLE		4	26	37	69	39	13	8	197	
	SYLVAN BEACH	940	0	16	26	31	43	8	5	128	
	STOKES HILL	1820	Т	24	33	57	40	19	10	182	
	BOONVILLE		0	17	37	63	21	12	13	162	
	WESTERNVILLE	1350	0	15	26	66	35	16	14	172	
	CAMDEN		Т	24	39	88	41	15	4	210	
	HOLLAND PATENT	590	0	13	31	48	28	11	5	137	
	HOLLAND PATENT		0	18	40	47	27	14	7	152	
	KIRKLAND	720	3	21	52	54	49	16	13	207	
YATES											
	STARKEY	1400	0	6	17	17	15	8	2	65	M
	PENN YAN		0	9	39	44	23	10	4	129	
SENECA											
	WILLARD	490	0	0	21	14	13	7	3	57	M
	TRUMANSBURG	750	0	7	27	34	21	14	0	103	М
	ROMULUS		0	5	22	31	17	9	4	88	
CAYUGA											
	UNION SPRINGS	1010	0	5	13	22	13	8	2	62	
	LEDYARD	850	0	8	18	25	15	9	0	74	М
	AURELIUS	520	0	8	24	35	16	8	4	95	
	MORAVIA		0	11	26	24	11	8	6	86	
	AUBURN		0	11	М	32	35	0	0	78	M
ONONDAGA											
-	LIVERPOOL	1430	Т	14	42	33	35	10	2	135	
	BALDWINSVILLE NW		0	22	52	51	M	М	M	124	M
	SKANEATELES		0	15	45	37	33	14	4	148	

	SYRACUSE PENNELLVILLE	600	0 0	16 15	39 34	37 39	31 57	12 15	3 4	138 164	
	CAMILLUS		0	M	45	45	32	7	0	129	M
STEUBEN											
	CORNING		0	8	19	20	18	13	6	84	
	CORNING NW	990	0	6	24	М	12	0	6	48	M
	CATON		0	7	17	17	15	11	4	71	
	BG FLTS/E CRNG		0	5	16	19	16	13	5	74	
	AVOCA NY	1040	0	16	34	31	25	12	6	124	
	CAMPBELL		0	10	26	М	М	M	3	38	M
	CAMERON	830	0	7	12	6	12	9	0	45	
	HORNELL		0	14	31	30	27	9	8	118	
	ADDISON		0	3	20	19	35	3	Т	80	
	CANISTEO		0	9	32	23	20	11	6	100	
	CORNING		0	15	19	15	14	14	4	82	
SCHUYLER											
	WATKINS GLEN	380	0	5	16	20	М	11	4	55	M
	READING CENTER	380	0	13	27	21	17	12	6	95	
CHEMUNG											
	ALPINE	460	0	11	28	18	24	13	4	98	
	PINE CITY	510	0	7	21	20	26	15	3	91	
	ERIN NW	800	0	5	22	25	17	13	5	88	
	ELMIRA DNTN	900	T	5	17	16	16	11	4	69	M
	ELMIRA SW	1060	0	7	18	18	21	14	4	82	
	HORSEHEADS E	1300	0	7	22	20	17	14	3	83	
	ELMIRA SE	1360	0	6	20	19	19	14	4	82	
	ELMIRA		0	4	15	12	12	12	4	57	M
	SOUTHPORT		0	3	17	20	15	10	3	67	
	SOUTHPORT	1490	0	9	16	17	19	13	4	77	
	ERIN	900	0	8	26	32	27	14	4	112	
	ELMIRA	1120	0	6	12	12	11	9	2	51	M
	ELMIRA	1160	0	6	19	21	21	14	4	84	
	ELMIRA	830	0	9	25	22	20	13	4	93	
	SOUTHPORT	1580	0	5	17	25	17	12	0	76	M
	ELMIRA		0	4	16	17	14	11	3	66	
	PINE VALLEY		0	0	19	25	23	13	4	84	

TOMPKINS											
	LANSING STN	1230	0	1	12	20	12	6	3	54	
	ITHACA		0	7	26	33	15	8	2	90	
	DANBY		0	14	33	35	26	15	0	122	
	GROTON		0	6	26	31	23	6	0	93	
	FREEVILLE		0	6	25	34	21	8	3	96	
	ITHACA		0	11	11	22	17	12	2	73	
	DANBY	1175	0	12	29	31	20	14	М	105	M
MADISON											
	CAZENOVIA		1	19	39	33	25	15	6	137	
	ONEIDA 1	1100	0	11	39	50	54	14	4	172	
	ONEIDA 2	1395	0	0	M	42	48	13	8	111	М
	ONEIDA 3	511	0	13	40	31	33	11	5	132	
	CHITTENANGO		0	0	24	37	33	7	0	102	
	LEBANON		0	3	29	23	22	М	6	83	М
	DERUYTER		0	9	25	29	20	12	6	100	
	STOCKBRIDGE		0	8	43	0	36	0	0	87	М
	BROOKFIELD		0	13	28	33	30	10	0	114	
	CAZENOVIA		0	20	M	M	17	5	9	51	М
	NELSON	1440	М	М	M	37	29	16	5	87	М
	CAZENOVIA		М	M	М	40	33	14	6	94	M
CORTLAND											
	FREETOWN	1460	0	15	32	35	26	8	4	119	
	CORTLAND NE	1500	0	16	40	42	34	13	6	153	
	MARATHON	1400	0	14	32	45	31	10	7	138	
	FREETWN CRNRS	1310	0	18	29	39	32	11	7	135	
	WILLET	1440	0	18	31	35	26	13	9	131	
	WILLETT	1750	0	17	28	40	29	13	7	133	
CHENANGO											
OHENANGO	GUILFORD	1750	1	17	35	26	19	12	5	114	
	SMTHVILLE FLTS	1820	0	15	21	31	22	10	0	99	
	CHENANGO FRKS	2700	0	10	22	35	18	10	8	102	
	COVENTRY	1655	0	16	22	32	19	11	0	100	
	BAINBRIDGE	1580	0	21	31	35	24	13	0	125	
	S NEW BERLIN	1000	0	17	42	38	25	12	7	141	
	GUILFORD	1620	0	24	44	39	20	10	5	141	
	GREENE	.020	0	15	27	45	25	11	0	122	
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OTSEGO											
	UNADILLA FORKS	1060	0	13	57	44	19	8	4	145	
	LAURENS		0	15	39	33	19	9	6	119	
	MORRIS	1900	0	14	44	30	17	9	4	118	
TIOGA											
	LOCKWOOD		0	6	25	29	26	14	9	109	
	APALACHIN	910	0	8	19	18	18	10	4	76	
	BERKSHIRE E		Т	10	25	36	25	11	5	110	
	BERKSHIRE N		0	10	24	39	23	10	6	110	
	NICHOLS	700	0	3	14	22	11	10	0	60	M
	OAKLEY CRNRS		Т	15	27	31	30	16	0	118	
	OWEGO W	960	0	10	23	28	26	14	7	105	
	APALACHIN	650	0	7	20	20	23	13	4	86	
BROOME											
BROOME	SOUTH OWEGO		0	6	23	20	14	13	0	76	М
	SANFRD/WINDSR	1050	0	17	41	27	28	11	11	134	
	FENTON/P CRNE	760	0	6	19	27	17	7	6	82	
	SOUTH VESTAL	. • •	T	10	28	31	31	19	9	129	
	VESTAL CENTER		0	8	25	22	26	13	6	100	
	CENTER LISLE	750	0	13	28	34	19	14	0	108	
	SANITARIA SPGS	460	Т	9	15	21	14	10	6	74	
	DEPOSIT		0	19	43	37	32	М	М	131	М
	COLESVILLE W	800	0	14	26	32	21	16	5	113	
	WCRS/UNION CTR		0	8	20	24	18	10	5	85	
	VESTAL CENTER	1300	0	12	26	26	33	14	5	116	
	VESTAL E	760	0	8	26	28	29	12	5	107	
	CHENANGO BDG		0	9	28	39	32	11	0	118	М
	VESTAL		0	6	20	23	25	12	5	90	
	ENDICOTT	780	0	5	18	22	26	9	4	83	
	CASTLE CREEK		0	11	30	36	23	14	9	123	
	CHENANGO	800	Т	10	23	31	20	12	5	101	
	BINGHAMTON S	1350	0	13	22	24	26	14	6	104	
	CHENANGO	945	0	6	22	29	20	0	0	76	М
	JOHNSON CTY		0	8	23	22	21	10	5	88	
DELAWARE											
DELAMANL	MERIDALE		0	21	48	37	23	13	6	147	
	MEREDITH	850	0	18	45	33	18	12	5	131	

GREENE											
	PRATTSVILLE		0	22	60	39	41	15	7	183	
SULLIVAN											
	LIBERTY	1850	Т	10	49	24	36	13	6	137	
	LONG EDDY		0	6	35	21	24	8	5	97	
BRADFORD											
	SYLVANIA		1	14	24	20	23	15	8	105	
	LITCHFIELD	960	0	10	26	28	0	0	0	64	M
	MONROETON	730	0	5	19	20	20	12	4	80	
	CANTON		2	7	16	17	21	14	5	82	
	TOWANDA		1	4	20	19	19	9	4	76	
	WYALUSING	250	0	1	17	16	M	8	M	41	M
	SUGAR RUN		0	3	26	20	24	9	0	82	M
	CANTON		0	3	16	12	14	12	4	63	
SUSQUEHANNA											
	THOMPSON	1510	0	10	32	20	24	15	7	107	
	QUAKER LAKE	1755	0	10	25	18	25	M	5	82	
	BRACKNEY	760	0	8	27	29	25	17	7	112	
	MONTROSE	750	0	5	23	20	25	10	6	89	
	FOREST CITY	1700	0	7	42	23	21	12	7	112	
	BRIDGEWTR TWP	1260	0	9	35	27	25	13	9	117	
	FAIRDALE/ELK L		0	8	35	20	28	13	7	110	
	SILVER LK TWP		Т	8	27	23	0	0	0	58	M
	NEW MILFORD		0	7	35	17	18	11	5	91	
	FOREST LK TWP		Т	9	31	23	24	10	2	99	
	SPRINGVILLE		0	6	32	16	20	10	6	89	
WAYNE											
	LEDGEDALE	1400	1	8	35	21	28	13	5	112	
	PRESTON TWP	1050	0	14	39	26	25	0	0	104	M
	EQUINUNK	1110	0	9	39	22	29	13	8	121	
	PLEASANT		0	0	38	30	38	5	0	111	M
	MOUNT CLIFTON		0	9	39	25	33	4	0	110	М
	GOULDSBORO		0	8	34	23	33	14	5	116	
	MILANVILLE		T	5	33	17	21	9	6	92	
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WYOMING											
	EATON		1	3	26	19	27	12	0	88	M
	TUNKHANNOCK		0	7	33	19	23	13	8	103	
LACKAWANNA											
	CLARKS SUMMIT		0	6	31	11	18	13	5	84	
	JERMYN		0	7	30	22	23	18	8	107	
	FLEETVILLE	1200	0	7	28	10	16	14	5	80	
LUZERNE											
	HARVEYS LAKE	800	2	4	21	20	22	13	5	85	
	SWEET VALLEY		0	4	18	17	20	13	0	71	M
	BUTLER TWP	1030	3	5	22	13	22	10	3	78	
	SHICKSHINNY		0	5	20	14	19	10	3	72	
DIVE											
PIKE	DINGMANS FRY		0	6	26	19	20	12	8	100	
		040	T	6			30				
	DINGMANS FRY	940		4	19	17	M	12	3	54	M
	MILFORD	1000	0	2	29	22	25	13	0	91	M
	MILFORD	1300	0	5	27	11	20	14	6	82	
COLUMBIA											
OOLOMBIA	ORANGEVILLE		4	1	19	М	М	0	6	30	М
MONROE											
	TOBYHANNA	1300	0	14	31	30	34	11	0	119	М

BOLD NUMBERS INDICATE HIGHEST MONTHLY TOTAL DURING THE SEASON.

M = DAILY OR MONTHLY DATA MISSING. USE SEASONAL DATA WITH CAUTION.